

Environmental Excellence volumental

VOLUME 2: NO 1: SPRING 2001

Springfield/Greene County Choose Environmental Excellence Steering Committee

Barbara Lucks

City of Springfield

Solid Waste Management Division

Kevin Gipson

Springfield/Greene Cty Health Dept.

Marie Steinwachs

Univ./ MO. Outreach and

Extension

Brad Bodenhausen

Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce

Terry Whaley

Ozark Greenways, Inc.

Ann Carter

The Discovery Center

Chuck Kroeger

Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources

Dave Fraley

City Utilities

Dave Coonrod

Greene County Presiding Commissioner

Loring Bullard

Watershed Committee of the Ozarks

Cindy Garner

Missouri Department of Conservation

Francis Skalicky

Missouri Department of Conservation

DeDe Vest

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Jon Schimpf

Dayco

Diana Sheridan

James River Basin Partnership

Becky Fay

University of Missouri Outreach and Extension

Tim Smith

Greene County Resource Mgt.

Randy Lyman

City of Springfield-Sanitary Services

Bob Hamilton

Solid Waste Management District "O"

Karl Barke

Springfield/Gr. County Health Dept. Air Quality Control

Ann Hall

Gary Deaver

Rena' Bass

Lynn Feagan

"SHOW-ME YARDS AND NEIGHBOHOODS" ADDRESSES NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION

As we progress in successfully addressing point-source water pollution and nutrient loading, it becomes increasingly more apparent that pollutants and nutrients from non-point sources must also be reduced significantly in order to bring about the improvements and protection of our water quality for which we are working. As a bit of reference, non-point sources may include run-off from areas such as construction sites, parking lots and other impervious surfaces, agricultural sources and residential or business lawns.

Show-Me Yards and Neighborhoods (SMY&N) is a program to address non-point source pollution – specifically nutrient run-off from lawns, both commercial, institutional or residential.

SMY&N is a part of *Choose Environmental Excellence* and dovetails very nicely with the basic components of the Choose Environmental Excellence program:

- * Acknowledge we all make an impact on the environment
- * Encourage education to raise awareness and give solutions
- * Ask that people consider the environment in their everyday choices and *Choose Environmental Excellence*

"Show-Me Yards and Neighborhoods" is a program developed to address residential or business lawns. Education and outreach activities are designed to increase awareness of the significant role lawns play in the total amounts of nutrients and pollutants that reach our rivers, streams and lakes. In addition to creating awareness, solutions are provided, as well as recognition incentives for homeowners, lawn care providers and neighborhoods that put the practices to work. Assistance with best management practices is available for builders, developers and landowners. Stream monitoring activities will provide information about the effect of the activities.

continued on page 2

City Dedicates Phosphorus Removal Facilities

The City of Springfield celebrated the recent completion of the Phosphorus Removal facilities at the City's Spithwest Wastewater Treatment Plant (SWTP) on Sunday, March 18 with a ribboncutting and dedication ceremony. This places in operation major phosphorous removal improvements at the SWTP which were started in 1997. These improvements have reduced the amount of phosphorous being discharged from the Plant to a level of 0.5 milligrams per liter. In reaching this level, the City met the Missouri Department of Natural Resources permit

continued on page 3

Show-Me Yards

Continued from page 1

The large number of partners participating in SMY&N is indicative of the broad base of support and interest in protecting our water quality. Funding partners for SMY&N are: Missouri Department of Natural Resources Grant, City of Springfield Public Works, Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, James River Basin Partnership.

Technical assistance partners include: Natural Resource Conservation Service, Missouri Department of Conservation, University of Missouri Outreach and Extension, Master Gardeners of Southwest Missouri, and Ozarks Technical Community College Turf and Landscape Management Program. Supporting partners include: Greene County Resource Management, City Utilities of Springfield, Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District, Southwest Missouri RC&D, League of Women Voters, and local homeowners and neighborhood associations.

Activities to date have included a pre-program survey of the targeted Pierson Creek/Southern Hills neighborhoods. A Media "Fun" Shop, held on 10/31, was the media "kick off" for the formal announcement of the program. A casual outdoor luncheon was followed by tours of two representative yards. Attendees participated in a "quiz" which challenged them to identify good and not-so-good practices on the first demonstration yard. The second yard, at the home of Master Gardener Mary Anne Green, allowed attendees to see first-hand many of the best management practices showcased in the SMY&N program.

On October 30 and November 3, homeowners' workshops were held in the two neighborhoods. Homeowners are encouraged to follow best management practices and can choose from a checklist to earn points or "inches." Reaching 36 inches earns an attractive "Show Me Yards & Neighborhoods Yarn Sign." Note: high scorer so far: 60 points!

Lawn Care Professionals Workshops were held on 1/30 and 2/22, with a total of 58 people attending. The format for both series of workshops was: Stormwater 101 from Loring Bullard and a summary of Wally Miller's research to drive home the connection between what goes on the lawns and what ends up in our streams and lakes; watering recommendations; mowing recommendations; fertilizers and pesticides; tree and shrub care; mulching and composting; and landscaping for backyard wildlife and native plants. Other presenters have included Regina Knauer from MDC, DeDe Vest from NRCS, Master Gardeners, Gaylord Moore from University of Missouri Outreach and Extension, Ellen Sieloff from the OTC Turf and Landscape Management Program, Barbara Lucks from the City of Springfield; Cindy Garner from MDC, and others.

The Lawn Care Professionals Workshops were tailored to the business' needs. Benefits for both the businesses and their customers were emphasized: sharing of relationship-building information; enabling the businesses to position themselves as responsible, caring professionals; utilizing the information to set themselves apart from other businesses. Recent issues of lawn/garden/home improvement magazines talking about environmental issues were used to illustrate that these are the magazines their customers are reading and environmental awareness and concerns are in every issue. The necessity of businesses to make a profit was acknowledged and the program was presented as a tool to achieve that end. Attendees were provided the same list of suggestions provided to homeowners: "What to ask your lawn service." A notebook was provided as well as many hand-out materials. Those attendees signing a "pledge" form were included on lists and displays which promoted the SMY&N program and their participation in it. To date, 31 businesses and institutions agreed to incorporate practices included in the SMY&N programs in their business or maintenance practices.

SMY&N displays appeared in the Home Show (2/2-4) and at the Lawn and Garden Show (2/16-18). A homeowner's seminar was also presented at the Lawn and Garden Show. Show Me Yards & Neighborhoods has also been included as a part of several other related workshops and demonstration programs. Other events are planned.

Homeowners, contractors and other professionals associated with lawn care are encouraged to participate in Show-Me Yards and Neighborhoods. For more information, please call Barbara Lucks at 864-2006.

Phosphorus Removal continued from page 1

limits two years ahead of schedule.

The \$ 2.2 million project, funded by an Environmental Protection Agency grant and city match, represents a significant step in reducing the total phosphorus levels in Wilson's Creek and the James River Arm of Table Rock Lake. "We want to recognize the efforts of our plant personnel in delivering this important environmental improvement project two years ahead of schedule. The SWTP's ability to remove phosphorus levels to the 0.5 milligrams per liter represents a significant milestone in the City's commitment to protecting and enhancing the water quality of our region," says Public Works Director Marc Thornsberry.

Speakers at the dedication reminded attendees and media that non-point sources, such as lawn and other runoff and improperly functioning septic tanks remain a major source of excess nutrients. Programs and agencies providing technical assistance in these areas were also featured.

EARTH DAY, 2001

Springfield/Greene County *Choose Environmental Excellence* announces Earth Day, 2001 will be celebrated in Springfield by a month of hands-on work project opportunities culminating in a day of celebration on April 21.

Work projects will be kicking off on March 21 – the first day of an eagerly awaited Spring! Linda Chorice, Missouri Department of Conservation, will be coordinating the work project portion of the event. The projects will be facilitated by a number of organizations including the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Ozark Greenways, City Utilities, the City of Springfield – Public Works Department, James River Basin Partnership and others. Between March 21 and April 21 volunteers are encouraged to participate in projects of their choice.

On April 21, the Discovery Center will once again be the site of a day of celebration of the work projects, educational activities and exhibits, music and fun for all ages. Membership-based environmental and conservation organizations are encouraged to participate with displays and information to use the event as an opportunity to raise awareness in the community and to recruit new members and volunteers. Earth Day activities are once again underwritten by Clariant LSM (Missouri), Inc.

Steve Trash (environmental magician/entertainer) will be this year's headline entertainment and admission to the Discovery Center, 438 East St. Louis, will be free for the day from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m..

During the Earth Day events at the Discovery Center, several *Choose Environmental Excellence* awards will be presented, including the Second Annual Earth Hero Award, sponsored by Friends of the Zoo and Service Awards sponsored by Solid Waste Management District "O". An award sponsored by Ozark Greenways, Inc. will also be presented.

A major new watershed exhibit at the Discovery Center will be dedicated on April 21. This project is being made possible through a partnership of the City of Springfield – Solid Waste Management and Sanitary Services Divisions, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Silver Dollar City, and the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks.

Earth Day 2001 promises to be a day full of celebration, activities and fun. For more information contact: Ann Carter, Discovery Center 862-9910, Ext. 701; Linda Chorice, Springfield Conservation Nature Center 888-4237; Barbara Lucks, City of Springfield, 864-2005.

Welcome to our *Choose Environmental Excellence* Members

BUSINESSES

Midwest Environmental Consultants, P.C. Canbrands Products Div. of Ralston Purina Co. The Bank Dayco Ray

Bill Lindsey Diane LeBlanc

Todd Parnell Jon Schimpf

First Impressions Printing Bass Pro Shops Forrester Group Williams and Associates Danny Correll Martin G. MacDonald Ray Forrester Dalayna Williams

DomesticAide Home and Office Gregg Larsen Landscaping, Inc. Southwestern BellTelephoneProducts, Inc.

Cleaning, Inc. Gregg Larsen Pat Blv **Bob Dresner**

Clariant LSM (Missouri), Inc. Arbor Managment Service Associated Electric Commercial Metals Company Steve Hancock Ellen Sieloff Bob McCarty & Bill Yoast Wendy Myers

ORGANIZATIONS

Loring Bullard

Tim Smith

City of Springfield Greene County Discovery Center Study Middle School

Barbara Lucks Dave Coonrod Ann Carter

City Utilities of Springfield Dickerson Park Zoo Master Gardeners of Southwest Missouri

Dave Fraley M ike Crocker Gaylord Moore

Watershed Committee of the James River Basin Partnership Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce

Ozarks Diana Sheridan Brad Bodenhausen

Rotary Club of Springfield – Southeast Southwest Mo. Cooperative Univ. of Missouri Outreach

Paul Sherard Marketing Assn. and Extension Office of WasteManagement

Marie Steinwachs Bobby Gregg

Solid Waste Management District "O" Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau Natural Resources Conservation Service

> Tracy Kimberlin Rita Mueller **DeDeVest**

Missouri Department of Conservation Missouri Department of Natural Resources Seguiota School Ozark Greenways, Inc.

Southwest Regional Office Southwest Regional Office Bonnie Tabor Terry Whaley

Francis Skalicky Chuck Kroger

Greene County Local Emergency Planning Committee Ozark Mountain Paddlers

Joey McElwee Steve Owens

Missouri Department of Conservation/Conservation Nature Center Greater Ozark Audubon Society

Linda Chorice Lisa Berger

INDIVIDUALS

Barbara J Lucks Ann Carter Terry Whaley Drew Holt Ann Hall

Paul and Lisa Young Dave and Elisa Coonrod Betty and Todd Parnell Stephen D. Short Chris Landoll Donna J, Stairs Sally and Dean Carter Mark Bishop Judy and Paul McCune Gary and Donna Deaver

Becky Fay Shae Johnson Lynn Feagan

SHOW-ME YARDS & NEIGHBORHOODS CERTIFIED LAWN CARE PROFESSIONALS and ASSOCIATES

Myron Royce Farms Bennett's Lawncare Blade Runner Stine's Lawn Mowing Advanced Lawn Care & Fertilizer, Inc. P&D Lawn Stylist Cochran Lawn Care JCB Enterprises Stan's Lawn Service Robinson Lawn Service Terrascapes, Inc. Ozark Greenways, Inc. Affordable Lawncare Southwest Missouri State University Terry's Landscape City Utilities of Springfield Unversity of Missouri-Rolla Robinson Lawn Service Professional Landscape Services Gregg Larsen Landscaping Clark's Creative Landscaping Springfield Public Works Wolfe Lawn and Landscaping Meadow Green of Springfield Zummo Agricultural Group Springfield Lawn and Yard Speedy Sharp & Lube

TrueGreen Chem Lawn Beautiful Days Landscaping Carney Lawn Care Ozark Native Plant Works, L.L.C.

Just in Case You Don't Think You Make a Difference

Here's a story that warms the hearts of environmental educators everywhere.

In September, 2000, Bobby Gregg, Executive Director of the Southwest Missouri Cooperative Marketing Association, gave a classroom presentation to students at South Elementary school in Neosho, ages kindergarten through fifth grade. Bobby talked about the importance of recycling in waste reduction efforts and told the class how to recycle.

In the class was Bethany Henry, age ten. Bethany was so inspired by the classroom discussion that, on her own, she researched recycling on the internet, eager to learn more.

Bethany's mom, Lana Henry is Chief Ranger at the George Washington Carver National Monument. As a federal employee, she learned of the first America Recycles Day federal poster contest that was being conducted by the White House Task Force on Recycling. She was so pleased Bethany was interested in recycling, she encouraged her to enter the contest.

Bethany's entry was chosen as a regional winner. Her poster graces the pages of the 2001 America Recycles Day Calendar published by the Task Force. Also included in her recognition was a personal letter of congratulations from Vice President Al Gore and an invitation to the White House to attend the awards ceremony.

COMMERCIAL METALS COMPANY FORGES RECYCLING PARTNERSHIP WITH CITY

Effective April 1, the metals collected at the City's recycling centers will be collected, processed and marketed by Commercial Metals Company (formerly Karchmer Iron and Metal) in a newly formed partnership. The company has been in operation in Springfield since June, 1956.

The partnership continues the City's progress toward a sustainable recycling program by representing a substantial reduction in collection and processing costs and secures a long-term local market for aluminum and steel/tin. Under the terms of the agreement, Commercial Metals Company (CMC) will not charge the City for collection, transportation and processing costs and will, in fact, pay market price for aluminum and a floor price for steel/tin.

CMC is also very interested in assisting the City's waste reduction and recycling education efforts. "This partnership is similar to the one we enjoy with Canbrands Products Division of Ralston Purina Company in that we can really encourage recycling and promote waste reduction through recycling without raising our operating costs at the recycling centers," says the City's Materials Recovery/ Education Coordinator, Barbara Lucks. "Everyone benefits – the community moves closer to a sustainable recycling program, the City gains a valuable new partner, and Commercial Metals Company gains a new source for materials."

Complete information about the hours, location and items accepted at the City's recycling centers is available by calling the City's Recycling Hotline at 864-1904 or on the City' web page: http://springfield.missouri.org/gov/recycling.

Calendar of Events

* March 18: Dedication of Phosphourous Removal Facility—Springfield's Southwest

Wastewater Treatment Plant. For information call Barbara Lucks at 864-2105.

* March 24: Naturescaping Symposeum 8:30-3:00, Springfield Conservation Nature Center.

For information call Regina Knauer at 888-4237

* **April 4-8:** James River Basin Partnership Tablerock Lake Clean-up.

For information call Diana Sheridan at 836-8877.

* **April 6:** Arbor Day

* **April 7:** Show-Me Yards and Neighborhoods Lawn Care Field Day. Nathanael

Greene Park 8:30 a.m. - noon. For information call Barbara Lucks at

864-2005.

* **April 19:** Southwest Missouri Cooperstive Marketing Association

Annual Meeting. For information call Bobby Gregg at 850-3183

* **April 28:** Master Gardeners Plant Sale, Nathaniel Greene Park 8 a.m. - noon.

For information call 862-9284 ext. 18

* **April 21:** Earth Day (See article page 3)

* May 4: Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation, Show-Me Conservation Outdoor

Classroom Grant applications are due. Additional information is available from the Office of Environmental Education, Missouri Department of Conservation at

573-751-4771

* May 13-15: Missouri Recycling Association Annual Conference, Kansas City Mo.

* **June 2:** National Trails Day. For information call Terry Whaley at 864-2014

Show-Me Yards & Neighborhoods

Lawn Care Professionals Certification Program



The following Companies, Institutions and Organizations have completed the Show-Me Yards & Neighborhoods Lawn Care Professionals Certification program and are committed to protecting the environment with their products and services and further, are committed to educating their customers and members in the use of environmentally sound lawn care practices.





COMPANY NAME	INDIVIDUAL NAME	COMPANY PHONE
Affordable Lawn Care	Rick Curtis	417-883-6179
Advanced Lawn Care & Fertilizer Inc.	Carl Davis	417-833-6575
Bennett's Lawncare	Bruce Bennett	417-732-7780
Beautiful Days Landscaping Services	Seth Entwisle	417-849-0314
Blade Runner	Bruce Fuller	
City of Springfield	Mike Stafford	
City Utilities D	avid Wilkerson	417-831-8402
Clark's Creative Landscaping	James M Clark (Mike)	417-732-6653
Cochran Lawn Care	Dennis Cochran	417-881-5413
Gregg Larsen Landscaping, Inc.	Gregg Larsen	417-889-4285
JCB Enterprises	Jimmy C Morris	417-880-9449
Leisure Lawn	Russ Prichard	417-833-2717
Meadow Green of Springfield Inc	Nick Miller	417-882-6286
Myron Royce Farms	Brian Fessenden	417-443-2648
Ozark Greenways	Richard A. Mayer	417-864-2015
P&D Lawn Stylists	Daniel DuLany	417-882-3060
	Patricia DuLany	417-882-3060
Professional Lawnscape Services	Greg R. Colbach	417-725-2203
Robinson Lawn Service	Dennis M Robinson	414-865-9229
SMSU	Richard T. Murphy Jr Chris Strodtman Jeff Henry	417-836-5963
Speedy Sharp & Lube	Russ Prichard	417-833-2717
Springfield Lawn & Yard	Joseph Bennett	417-831-5041
Springfield Public Works/Public Grounds	Michael Leffler	417-864-1135
Stan's Lawn Services	Leon "Stan" Dugi III	417-883-3543
Stine's Lawn Mowing	Carl Stine	417-725-1636
Terra Scapes, Inc.		417-890-5901
Terry's Landscape	Terry Brown	417-833-1030
TRU Green Chemlawn	Shane Williams	417-832-5661
University of Missouri-Rolla	Charles (Jim) Duncan	573-341-4251
Wolfe Lawn & Landscaping	Mark Wolfe	417-863-9270
Zummo Agricultural Group	Richard Zummo	417-886-8568

Going Native

In the nature-wise words of Thoreau, "We can never have too much of nature." But sometimes nature can have too much of us. We often wrestle down what looks like nature's chaos to create orderly and manageable gardens. And quite often that "wrestling" is expensive, time consuming, and tends to thwart the natural way of an Ozark garden. It makes sense to reach some kind of truce with nature especially since (like it or not) nature has the upper hand.

Look around our leafy local forests, our wonderful wetlands, our gorgeous glades, and our particularly pretty prairies and notice what grows there—untended and ungroomed. These are the native trees, shrubs, and flowers that thrive in our natural Ozark communities. Adapted to the extremes of cold and heat, rainfall and drought, clay and rocks (all so beloved by Ozarkers), native plants are not only beautiful to behold but are also perfect habitat for native Ozark wildlife. Rather than ignore or try to replace these "natives" with exotic, "out-of-state" plants, why not try something different and let the "natives" be your garden guide?

Consider what physical aspects of those natural communities (glades, forests, etc.) are reflected on your property. What plants grow in those communities that would serve your landscaping purposes? Which plants are thriving in areas with conditions similar to those of your garden? Which ones grow best in dry, rocky soil? Which ones in moist, shady areas? For more information call Regina Knauer at 888-4237.

Healthy Home/Sick Home

- * Do you know which chemicals in your household products can make you sick?
- * Do you ever notice burning eyes, coughing, sneezing or breathing problems that happen mostly when you are at home?
- * Does your home ever smell must, damp, smoky or like chemicals?
- * Has your home ever been tested for lead, radon, asbestos, or carbon monoxide?

The University Outreach & Extension's Office of Waste Managment has resources on hazardous products, indoor air quality, lead, pesticides, and other household hazards you and your family might be exposed to! These include guidesheets, Healthy Homes assessment tools, and on-line continuing education course on household hazardous materials. For information, contact the Office of Waste Managment at

owm@missouri.edu, 417-889-5000, or visit our website at http://outreach.missouri.edu/owm.

2001: A Waste Odyssey

The 29th annual Missouri Waste Managment Conference will be held July 8-10 in Columbia. The conference will feature workshops on extended producer responsibility, integrated waste managment systems, life cycle managment, large-scale composting, green design, environmental justice, environmental managment systems, illegal drug lab wastes, and other cutting edge issues! If you have an environmental product or service to feature, the conference offers great packages for exhibitors and sponsors. For more information on the conference, contact Missouri Waste Control Coalition at 913-381-4458 or P.O. Box 7055, Kansas City, MO 64113-7055.

Discovery Center

The Discovery Center of Springfield (DCS) is an interactive, hands-on museum, "...committed to inspiring people of all ages with a life-long love of learning and an appreciation of the world and our place in it." Promoting Great Minds @ Play, the DCS interweaves many forms of science, health, technology, history, art and culture; one of our primary areas of educational focus is the environment. Central to our mission, the Discovery Center offers a wide variety of educational experiences. These include permanent and traveling exhibits, hands-on activities, innovative group programs and summer workshops, Free Family Fun Nights and special events including the regional hosting of Earth Day festivities for the past two years.

Looking ahead to April 21, 2001, the Discovery Center will again host a celebration of Earth Day, inviting environmentally-focused agencies, organizations and individuals to come together to announce accomplishments, promote year-round activities and recruit assistance toward not only the protection of natural resources, but also the admiration of the wonders of our Mother Earth.

During March and early April, 2001, the DCS along with the Nature Center of Springfield and numerous groups throughout the region will organize and encourage on-going, environmental projects. These will include stream clean-ups, plantings, trail building and much more. Then, on that Saturday of Earth Day, those involved in the projects will be invited to share their experiences and be recognized for their diligence. In addition, the Discovery Center will offer free admission to the general public and host Steve Trash, nationally recognized for his "environmental magic", animal shows, educational presentations, hands-on entertainment and fun for the whole family.

Sponsored, by Clariant LSM (formerly Archima) EARTH DAY 2001 will be held at the Discovery Center in downtown Springfield on: Saturday, April 21, 2001, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

Submitted by Ann Carter, Education Director Discovery Center, 438 St. Louis Street, Springfield, MO 65806

Phone: 417/862-9910, Ext. 701

TAP Website

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources is most often thought of as an agency that administers environmental laws and regulations. The department, however is made up of several divisions, one of which is the Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The Technical Assistance Program or TAP is one of the programs making up DEQ.

Tap is a non-regulatory program whose purpose is to inform people about environmental issues and foster compliance with environmental requirements. Tap helps businesses, farmers, local governments, and individuals control or prevent pollution and can help you get answers to your questions about environmental issues and regulations.

Environmental assistance through TAP is now available on the internet. There are about 300 publications listed on the assistance site, close to half of which can be downloaded on Adobe Acrobat Reader. Many of the reporting and application forms needed for DNR compliance are also available on the site. An order form is provided for other publications listed on the site.

Besides the publications, the TAP site has Agricultural, Business, and Government Assistance, Environmental Education, Pollution Prevention, Calendar of Events, Missouri Code of Regulations and Statutes, and other types of assistance. You can log on at http://www.dnr.state.mo.us/deg/tap or contact them at 1-800-361-4827 for information.

The etc. Center is Open for Business!

The etc. Center, a recycling project which doubles as a resource center for area teachers, is once again accepting materials.

Contact people at the Center are Beth Nickle or Cathy Carleton. They can be reached at 831-0979. The Center, located at 501 West Central, behind Bailey School, is open Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 1:00 p.m. til 5:00 p.m.

Items accepted include: foam meat trays, clean cotton balls, styrofoam cups, egg cartons, cloth material, yarn, string, greeting cards, paper grocery sacks, and paper or plastic shopping bags with handles. Also welcome are yogurt, margarine and butter plastic containers, and the "clamshell" plastic containers such as used for deli cupcakes or salad bar items. Of course, please be sure all items are clean.

Items not accepted at the present time include pine cones; paper towel, toilet paper or gift wrap rolls; cereal boxes or kleenex boxes, and glass jars. If you have an item you aren't sure can be used at the Center, it is suggested that you just bring it along with you when you bring other items and the personnel at the Center will take a look at it.

Businesses are also welcome to call the Center with items. Paper, such as writing paper, outdated office stationary, craft paper is especially useful.

Items are available from the etc. Center for area teachers by subscription. If your school is interested in subscribing, please contact the Center.

Welcome back, etc. Center!

Choose Environmental Excellence P.O. Box 8368 Springfield, Mo 65802